

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in Virginia coastal waters.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

December 3, 2010 to December 30, 2010

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a proposed federal action to determine if it is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP) established pursuant to the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The VCP seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:

DOC/NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes amendment to the following fishery management plans (FMPs): Amendment 13 to the Atlantic mackerel, Squids, and Butterfish FMP; Amendment 3 to the Atlantic bluefish FMP; Amendment 2 to the Spiny dogfish FMP; Amendment 15 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP; Amendment 16 to the Surfclam and Ocean Quahog FMP; and Amendment 3 to the Tilefish FMP. The amendments are to the annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs). The omnibus amendment would: (1) implement a process for deriving and establishing ACLs and AMs for all managed species in the applicable FMPs except for *Loligo* and *Illex* squid which are exempt from the requirements because of their annual life cycles; (2) establish a framework of control rules to guide the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's scientific advisory body, the Scientific and Statistical Committee, in providing scientific advice on setting appropriate catch limits; and (3) establish a process for reviewing the effectiveness of established measures and specify the processes that would be undertaken for future Council actions to modify measures, as needed. The NMFS has submitted a Federal Consistency Determination that finds the proposed action consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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